



ISA Participant Fact Sheet

University of Illinois Extension 4-H is excited to welcome you to the University of Illinois and Illini Summer Academies. Read the following information carefully so you have everything you need for an amazing week.

Contacts: (Cell phone will be provided during ISA)

Mark Becker
ISA Director
217-300-8755 (Office)
mbbecker@illinois.edu

State 4-H Office
Main Line
217-333-0910
(Call Anytime during business hours)

Jessica Hays
State 4-H Events Coordinator
+1 217 345 7034
jnhays@illinois.edu

Registration Schedule:

Registration Deadline: April 17, 2026 - 11:59 pm CST

Early Registration (February 9 - March 1, 2026)

Fee \$500 + Academy fees

Late Registration (March 2 – April 17, 2026)

Fee \$\$550 + Academy fees

Scholarships:

Illinois 4-H offers scholarship opportunities to students at ISA to increase access and participation statewide.

Trailblazer Scholarship:

With support from our generous donors and the Illinois 4-H Foundation, we offer a need-based/1st Generation college student scholarship. Apply for the Trailblazer scholarship through your ZSuite Registration; they are assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. If selected, this scholarship can go toward covering the Base Fee and Academy Fee for any academy of your choosing.

Academy Specific Scholarships:

These scholarships are made available by the Academy host department through department or grant funds. Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis. They are only available to support registration in these specific academies:

- Growing with Tech: Intro to Digital Ag Academy
- Feeding the Future: Breeding and Genetics Academy

Cancellations & Refunds:

Refunds must be received in writing to Mark Becker: mbbecker@illinois.edu, cc: Jessica Hays: jnhays@illinois.edu.

Requests received by May 15, 2026, by 5:00 pm will receive a refund minus a 5% processing fee. No refunds will be given after May 16, 2026. Counties are allowed to send a substitute of the same gender/same academy to this event, but must notify Mark Becker regarding the substitution.

Programming & Academy Questions: Mark Becker, 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist, Food Systems & ISA Event Director – mbbecker@illinois.edu.

Logistic & Accommodation Questions: Jessica Hays, Illinois 4-H Events & Communications Coordinator, jnhays@illinois.edu.





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Announcements and Communication During Event:

We will be using the GroupMe messaging app, which you can access for free on your phone. You will have the opportunity to be added to an ISA 2026 GroupMe group in June. We will be using it to post reminders, announcements, and important information before and during the event.

Sunday Drop-Off

Bousfield Hall, 1214 South First St., Champaign, IL.

Meter parking is free on campus on the weekends. You may park in the metered parking lot that is south of Bousfield Hall, Lot E24, but beware that when you pick up your child on Thursday, campus parking will be patrolling and frequently give tickets. On pick-up day (Thursday), follow the directions on the meter and pay for parking.

Registration is from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 21

Dinner will be provided for participants on Sunday night. Please be prepared to update any health information at check-in. We will be walking to most of our Academies from Bousfield Hall, if you have an injury or medical situation that would make it not feasible for you to walk, please inform ISA event staff as soon as possible. If you check in near the beginning of the check-in period, you will have some downtime where you can get situated in your room or socialize in the common areas of Bousfield Hall. The group photo and dinner will be the first thing we will do together as a group.

Overnight Parking for Participants

If you are parking a vehicle, you must purchase a parking permit for each day your car is in the University parking lot. The parking fee for ISA totals \$60. You should pay this fee BEFORE June 21, otherwise, be prepared to buy your parking permit when you check in and pay with a credit card or check. NOTE: Your car must remain parked the entire week and you will not be allowed to drive it or leave campus.

Thursday Check-Out Procedures

All participants may begin to check out at 8:30 AM on Thursday, June 25. Everyone must be out by 11 AM. Parents, inform your child what time you will arrive so they can be checked out and ready to leave when you arrive. NOTE: Each participant must turn in their dorm room key to the front desk, which will be the last item they need to do before leaving. If participants lose their room key, they will be charged \$50 at checkout if they have not paid for the key earlier in the week.

ISA 2026 Schedule

Please refer to the Illini Summer Academies event website for the most up to date event information: 4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/illini-summer-academies





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Preparing for ISA 2026

Here are some details that will be helpful to consider as you prepare for your summer with us at ISA:

Money:

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided the whole week. Students will have very few opportunities to deviate from our full schedule; however, should you determine to bring spending cash for souvenirs/snacks, there will be some time windows where you can visit a campus store with an adult chaperone.

Clothing:

- You should familiarize yourself with the clothing clause in the Student Code of Conduct document as ISA gets closer, so you can set yourself up for success. In general, you can wear what you would normally wear to school at ISA. However, several academies requested specific attire for their attendees so be sure to read your Academy description closely on the Illini Summer Academies website and on the Zsuite registration page.

Clothing for Other ISA Activities:

- Students participating in the 4-H Illini Summer Academies are representing the U of I and 4-H. Neat and appropriate dress will give a positive image, both to the college instructors and the public. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes for walking, academy time, and other activities. In general, it's a good idea to bring a pair of dress shoes and a pair of shoes that you can run and walk in, and don't mind getting dirty.
 - Wednesday night is our Closing Celebration, business casual dress is recommended but optional. See the Code of Conduct for more details.
 - Sweaters or jackets in case of cold weather or cold temperature inside U of I Buildings.
 - An umbrella in case of rain, as we frequently walk from location to location on campus.
 - Clothes that you don't mind getting dirty for our Tuesday night activities.
 - Hoodies are an appropriate clothing item. However, please be sure that you keep your hood down during your Academy sessions and other event activities so you can fully participate.

Bedding, Towels, and Toiletries:

- A pillow, bed sheets, and a fleece blanket are provided by the dorm. However, if you wish to bring additional bedding items or your favorite blanket, you can. One of your first tasks will be to make your bed once you get into your dorm room.
- Towels: Bath towels, hand towels, and wash cloth will be provided. Only one set is provided for the time you are in the dorm. You may bring a personal towel from home if you wish.
- Toiletries and other personal items are not provided. Please make sure you bring your toiletries such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, and other personal care items.



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Preparing for ISA 2026 Continued

Here are some details that will be helpful to consider as you prepare for your summer with us at ISA:

Phone Use:

- It is discouraged to use your phone during activities and conference events. Should you need to communicate with family members, please do so during your breaks except in an emergency, in which case you should inform a chaperone or your Academy host. Please refrain from utilizing your headphones during conference events or activities. You will have downtime during which phone usage will be one of many options available to you.

Medication:

- 4-H Staff members and chaperones are not allowed to dispense medicine, so participants must be able to take medicine on their own. A refrigerator will be provided in the ISA headquarters for any medication needing refrigeration. We will have a Registered Nurse on site to assist students as needed during the event. The Nurse will have a Nurses Station in Bousfield Hall, which students can visit, and can come to visit students during the day upon request to the ISA Director.

Smoke Free Campus:

- The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has a strict smoke and tobacco-free campus policy, which includes vaping. This policy prohibits the use of all non-combustible tobacco products and non-FDA-approved nicotine delivery devices on all campus property, both indoors and outdoors. This includes private vehicles parked on campus property. There is a zero-tolerance policy which will result in dismissal from ISA should a violation of this policy occur.

Schedule Overview - Please see ISA Event Schedule for more details.

SUN. 6/21	MON. 6/22	TUE. 6/23	WED. 6/24	THU. 6/25
3 - 4:30 PM Check-in Chaperone Meetings beginning at 4:30 pm.	ACADEMY SESSIONS <u>MORNING SESSION</u> 9 am-11:45 am LUNCH @ Dining Halls 11:45 am - 1:15 pm <u>AFTERNOON SESSION</u> 1:15 pm-4 pm			8:00-11 AM Check-Out
Dinner & Evening Activities	Evening Activities			





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ISA 2026 General Safety Tips

The Illini Summer Academies is an extremely safe, enjoyable, and welcoming environment for all our participants. There are recommendations provided by the U of I Police Department to make sure that you keep yourself and your fellow participants as safe as possible so you can enjoy the event to the fullest.

Don't Lose Your Swipe Card:

You will be provided a swipe card at check-in which will allow you access to Bousfield Hall. Please keep this card in your zipper pouch as you cannot access Bousfield Hall or the Dining Hall without it.

Always Keep Your Nametag On You:

Your nametag will help identify you as an ISA Participant. It also has a zipper pouch where you can store your Swipe Card to access Bousfield Hall.

Keep Doors Locked:

The outer doors to Bousfield are locked 24/7 and only accessible via Swipe Card. You should also make sure the door to your room remains locked. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and go immediately to an area with lights and people and speak with your Floor Chaperone or ISA event staff.

Don't Let Others 'Piggyback':

Especially around our Bousfield Residence Hall, holding doors for others may provide access to someone who doesn't belong there. Politely ask others to use their key or swipe card to gain entry. Please report these instances to the ISA Event Staff or your Chaperone. All individuals who are supposed to be in Bousfield should have their Swipe Card on them. The only exception to this would be for other ISA attendees who are clearly displaying their ISA Name Tag.

Stay Aware of Your Surroundings:

Listening to music or using your phone while walking around campus can distract you from the people or vehicles around you. Make sure you are doing everything you can to pay attention to your surroundings to avoid accidents.

Do Not Walk Alone:

When moving around campus, always walk in groups of two or more. You should always walk to and from your Academy with your Academy as a group and with your Chaperone.

Use Your Support System:

ISA has several systems in place to support you and help make sure you're having a good experience. You can communicate with your Chaperone, your Academy hosts, or ISA Event Staff at any time, either in person or via cellphone call or text. If you aren't feeling well or have a safety concern, the sooner you let us know, the better.

Be Where You Are Supposed to Be:

It is important that you are on time and in the right place according to our event schedule. It's a good idea to have a buddy system so your roommate or another Academy participant can know where you are at all times. Not being where you need to be at the right time can create problems for you and for our event.





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Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I drop off and pick up my child?

Drop-off will be at Bousfield Hall at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. **Address:** 1214 S. 1st Street, Champaign IL 61820

Drop-off date and time: Sunday, June 21, between 3 and 4:30 PM

Pick-up date and time: Thursday, June 25 between 8 and 11 AM

Is bedding provided?

Yes; a pillow, bed sheets, and a fleece blanket are provided by the dorm. However, if you wish to bring additional bedding items, you can.

Do I need to bring towels?

Yes!

Can I leave campus once I have checked in at Illini Summer Academies?

No.

May I visit other people I know on campus during the week?

No.

How much money should I bring?

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided for the whole week. Students will have very few opportunities to deviate from our full schedule, however, should you determine to bring spending cash for souvenirs/snacks there will be some small time windows where you can visit a campus store with an adult chaperone.

What if I lose my room key?

University of Illinois Housing will charge you \$50 if your dorm room key is lost. You will have to pay this fee out of your own pocket. Illini Summer Academies cost and staff are NOT responsible for your key and the fee you are charged if you lose your room key.

What if I get lost on campus?

On the back of your name tag are the emergency numbers of staff that you should call immediately.

Will there be swimming involved?

No, with the exception of the Applied Health Sciences Academy.





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What if my academy doesn't have specific clothing requirements?

Follow the dress code on the instructions sheet and in your code of conduct.

What do I need to do at check-out?

In order to leave please make sure you pick after yourself and make sure you leave the room how you found it. Throw away any garbage and make sure you take all your belongings.

Will there be time to get Illini gear and other U of I souvenirs?

There may be designated times throughout the week when participants will have the opportunity to go on Green Street to shop for Illini gear and other souvenirs. Participants are not allowed to go on Green Street without staff permission or during unscheduled times.

Do I need to bring dress clothes?

It is not required, however, our Wednesday night activity will be a closing dinner accompanied afterward by a live DJ. With that in mind, you may consider packing dress clothing that would be appropriate.

How can I find out how my student/child is doing during the week?

Students will be able to access their cell phones during most of the event except during certain portions of their academy instruction. You will also have the opportunity to contact ISA Event staff directly with any questions or concerns, as well as receive frequent updates through the GroupMe app.

Will my student/child be safe during their stay on campus?

Our primary goal is to provide a safe and fun learning environment for every single participant joining us for this year's ISA event. That said, our youth participants will always be accompanied by a fully background-checked and screened 4-H volunteer chaperone who will be their point of contact for any issues they may encounter during the week. Additionally, U of I Campus Police will be actively patrolling all of our campus locations during every day of the event and will be in frequent contact with ISA Event Staff. You can find out more safety tips on their website: <https://police.illinois.edu/info/tips/>

See You This Summer at UIUC!



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